WHY THE CHANGE – TECHNOLOGY

In 1987 the County started the process of obtaining new aerial photography as required by the State. Technology had greatly changed from 1978 aerials that were currently being used. The new aerial photography was now called orthophoto's (Ortho's).

Ortho's are much more accurate. Traditional aerials were distorted more and more the further you got away from the center of the map. Ortho's on the other hand are rectified to be just as accurate on the edge as the center of the map. The other change is the size. The 1978 photos were 24" x 36" with about 20" x 32" used as mapping area. Ortho's have a 25" x 25" mapping area. Ortho's are also numbered per state guidelines based on scale. Map numbers are based at 1" = 400' scale. Sub-maps use the 1" = 400' map number then add a sub-map number based on scale 1" = 100' would be sub-maps 05 - 20 and 1" – 50' would be sub-maps 21-84. This provides a much better method for map joining and location, versus series maps that did not really match 1" = 400 map numbers. All of this size change meant new indexes and new map numbers, hence the reason for the parcel number change. There was also an increase from 800 to 1800 tax maps due to development in the county.

The County started the long conversion process to digital parcel maps (GIS base data) in 1994, hiring contractors to reconstruct the parcel data from deeds and plats as much as possible. Final delivery was made in 2002. After all 2002 parcel work was completed on the 1978 mylar tax maps, the GIS mapping staff stopped updating the mylars and began working on QC and making sure that every 2002 parcel number in the Assessors cama database had a matching GIS parcel number. When all 2002 updates and corrections were made in GIS the "GIS parcel number cross-reference" was created to use as a perpetual cross-reference from GIS to mylar parcel numbers.

From Aiken County GIS, April 2004